



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

SC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

SC Public Charter

Grades: K-12

Enrollment: 1,639

Principal: Allison R. Reaves

Superintendent: Wayne Brazell

Board Chair: Don McLaurin

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov) as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

| YEAR | ABSOLUTE RATING | GROWTH RATING | PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD |                 | AYP STATUS | NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS |
|------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|
|      |                 |               | General Performance            | Closing the Gap |            |                         |
| 2010 | Average         | Good          | TBD                            | TBD             | Not Met    | NI                      |
| 2009 | Average         | Average       | N/A                            | N/A             | Not Met    | N/A                     |
| 2008 | N/A             | N/A           | N/A                            | N/A             | N/A        | N/A                     |

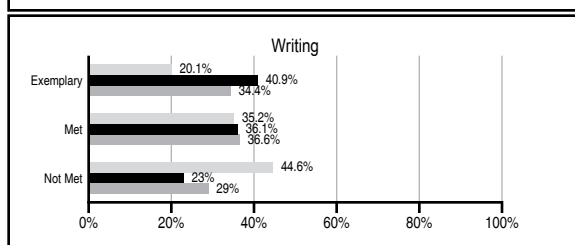
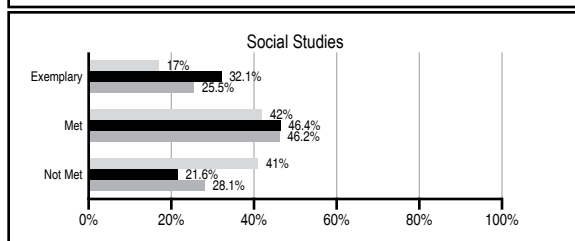
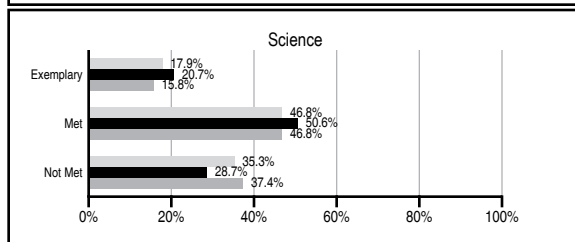
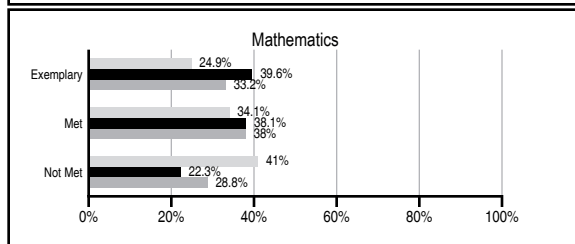
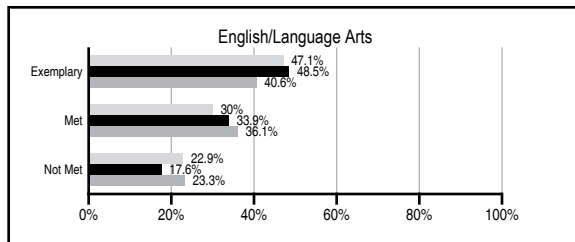
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

| EXCELLENT | GOOD | AVERAGE | BELOW AVERAGE | AT-RISK |
|-----------|------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 24        | 38   | 30      | 0             | 0       |

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/09/2011. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

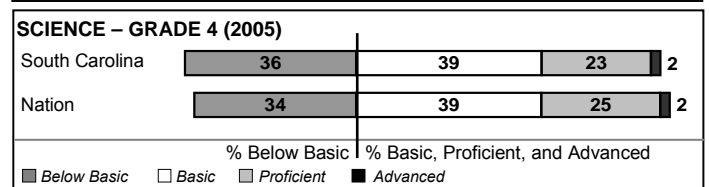
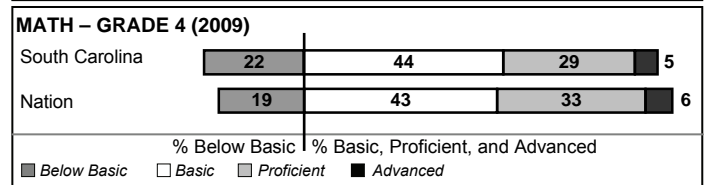
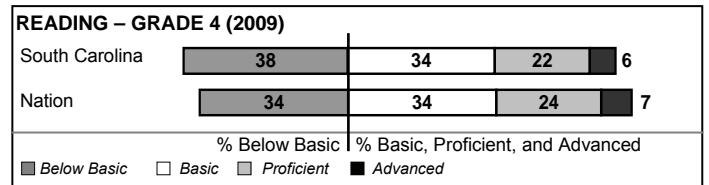
## PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours Elementary schools statewide



## NAEP PERFORMANCE\*

\* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



## SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

*By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.*

2020 Vision:

*By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.*

## Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined

NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

# SC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY [SC Public Charter]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

|  | Our School    | Change from Last Year | Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours | Median Elementary School |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Students (n=1,639)</b>  |               |                       |  |                          |
| Retention rate   | 1.9%          | Down from 6.2%        | 1.2%                                       | 1.2%                     |
| Attendance rate  | 96.0%         | Down from 96.8%       | 96.2%                                      | 96.1%                    |
| Eligible for gifted and talented   | 12.6%         | Down from 15.6%       | 16.1%                                      | 11.7%                    |
| With disabilities other than speech  | 9.1%          | Up from 8.0%          | 7.5%                                       | 8.0%                     |
| Older than usual for grade   | 8.3%          | Up from 7.4%          | 0.3%                                       | 0.4%                     |
| Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses | 0.0%          | No Change             | 0.0%                                       | 0.0%                     |
| <b>Teachers (n=46)</b>   |               |                       |  |                          |
| Teachers with advanced degrees   | 45.7%         | Down from 46.2%       | 62.4%                                      | 60.5%                    |
| Continuing contract teachers   | 8.7%          | Down from 30.8%       | 86.8%                                      | 84.6%                    |
| Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates                          | 4.5%          | Down from 14.3%       | 0.0%                                       | 0.0%                     |
| Teachers returning from previous year  | N/A           | N/A                   | 89.7%                                      | 87.0%                    |
| Teacher attendance rate  | 96.8%         | N/R                   | 95.5%                                      | 95.4%                    |
| Average teacher salary*  | \$33,611      | Down 10.2%            | \$48,105                                   | \$47,288                 |
| Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers                              | 29.9%         | Down from 35.8%       | 0.0%                                       | 0.0%                     |
| Professional development days/teacher  | 17.3 days     | Up from 11.4 days     | 10.8 days                                  | 10.5 days                |
| <b>School</b>  |               |                       |  |                          |
| Principal's years at school  | 1.0           | No Change             | 5.0  | 4.0                      |
| Student-teacher ratio in core subjects                                       | N/R           | N/R                   | 19.9 to 1                                  | 19.2 to 1                |
| Prime instructional time   | 92.2%         | N/R                   | 90.9%                                      | 90.8%                    |
| Opportunities in the arts  | Poor          | Down from Fair        | Good                                       | Good                     |
| SACS accreditation   | Yes           | Up from No            | Yes  | Yes                      |
| Parents attending conferences  | 100.0%        | No Change             | 100.0%                                     | 100.0%                   |
| Character development program  | Below Average | No Change             | Excellent                                  | Excellent                |
| Dollars spent per pupil**  | \$5,330       | N/A                   | \$6,958                                    | \$7,548                  |
| Percent of expenditures for instruction**                                    | 54.0%         | N/A                   | 69.2%                                      | 68.7%                    |
| Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**                               | 17.1%         | N/A                   | 66.3%                                      | 65.1%                    |
| % of AYP objectives met  | 90.5%         | Up from 89.5%         | 100.0%                                     | 100.0%                   |

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

|  | Teachers | Students* | Parents* |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
| Number of surveys returned                             | 29       | 19        | 52       |
| Percent satisfied with learning environment            | 100.0%   | 100.0%    | 94.2%    |
| Percent satisfied with social and physical environment | 89.7%    | 100.0%    | 79.2%    |
| Percent satisfied with school-home relations           | 100.0%   | 94.4%     | 92.3%    |

\*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is a pioneering, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year as a member of the South Carolina Public Charter School District. SCCA offers a premier online education to children in grades K-12 regardless of where they reside in the state. Our curriculum meets national and state standards while simultaneously meeting the personal needs of all of our students. Students progress through the program under the guidance of their Learning Coach (typically a parent or guardian) in conjunction with their highly qualified South Carolina certified teachers. Regular interaction occurs via phone, email, Field Trips and live web conferences. Student work is then submitted online for teacher review. Our user-friendly Learning Management System (LMS) includes coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, messages boards, and supplemental learning programs. The LMS provides all the necessary information, at your fingertips, to successfully learn anywhere there is an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools.

SCCA offers advanced curriculum to Gifted and Talented students in grades 3 through 8 Science, Math, and Language Arts. These students participate in a Literature Study course using the Junior Great Books series. Teachers in our Special Education Department serve their students using the inclusion model to meet their needs in the least restrictive environment. Students required to receive speech services participate in Virtual Speech sessions. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech services are also provided through contracted, certified providers.

Our high school program includes approximately 545 students across the state. The selection of courses we offer is varied and challenging. Students are able to study Foreign Languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Latin, French and Spanish. We also offer 20 Advanced Placement courses and a variety of college preparatory electives. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. SCCA requires all students to successfully complete two years of foreign languages or humanities. In addition, a full year of health and a full year of American Government are required.

In an effort to create a sense of community, various field trips were planned statewide. This allowed students, parents, and teachers to interact face-to-face. Over thirty opportunities were held during the 2009-2010 school year, including museum, zoo, and aquarium tours; environmental awareness activities; an Arts Festival featuring student work; Charter Day at the Capitol; a Field Day; and Graduation.

Allison Reaves, SCCA Principal

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov) as well as school and school district websites.

Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

### Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined

NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status